

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 04792 01 OF 02 231050Z
ACTION AF-10

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R 231012Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4609
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 4792

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SG, AG
SUBJECT: SENEGAL'S "LE SOLEIL" ANSWERS ALGERIA'S "EL MOUDJAHID"

1. SENEGALESE MAIN DAILY LE SOLEIL" DECIDED JUNE 22
TO STOP TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK AND INSTEAD TO REBUT,
POINT BY POINT, AN ARTICLE ON SENEGAL WHICH REPORTEDLY
APPEARED IN THE ALGERIAN FRENCH LANGUAGE "EL MOUDJAHID"
OF MAY 16, UNDER BYLINE OF DJAMEL SAIFI. REBUTTAL,
WHICH TAKES UP PART OF PAGE 1 AND ALL OF PAGES 2 AND 3
OF JUNE 22 EDITION, INCLUDES FULL TEXT OF "MOUDJAHID"
ARTICLE SO THAT "SENEGALESE THEMSELVES CAN JUDGE."
HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. THE SENEGALESE ECONOMY. EL MOUDJAHID: "IN 18 YEARS
OF POWER, THE SENEGALESE SOCIALIST PARTY OF WHICH
SENGHOR IS THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS LEFT NOTHING BUT
CRUMBS TO THE SENEGALESE PEOPLE. THE ENTIRE ECONOMY OF
THE COUNTRY, FROM THE SMALLEST ENTERPRISE TO GAS,
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 04792 01 OF 02 231050Z

ELECTRICITY, WATER, ETC. IS IN THE HANDS OF THE FRENCH
WHO ARE IMPOSING THEIR DIKTAT ON THE SENEGALESE
PEOPLE." TO THIS LE SOLEIL REPLYS, "WATER AND
ELECTRICITY WERE NATIONALIZED IN SENEGAL MORE THAN
SIX YEARS AGO. AFTER WATER AND ELECTRICTY THE
SENEGALESE STATE SYSTEMATICALLY SET OUT TO TAKE OVER
THE CONTROLS OF KEY INDUSTRIES. IT ACQUIRED A MAJORITY

INTEREST IN TAIBA PHOSPHATES, THE MAIN PRODUCER. THE STATE ACQUIRED A 70 PERCENT INTEREST IN THE MAIN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE STATE HAS TAKEN OVER PERCENT OWNERSHIP IN THE PEANUT OIL REFINERIES. THIS LIST CAN BE CONTINUED AT LENGTH."##

3. STUDENT UNREST AND ILLITERACY. EL MOUDJAHID: "THE UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR...FOR SEVERAL MONTHS HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF VIOLENT ANTI-FRENCH DEMONSTRATIONS. LED BY FRENCH ADVISERS, SENEGALESE POLICE AND ARMY FORCES HAVE NOT HESITATED TO REPRESS SEVERELY ALL EFFORTS BY THE STUDENTS TO RAISE THEIR VOICES. MORE THAN 90 PERCENT OF PROFESSORS ARE RESTRICTED TO THE ROLE OF ASSISTANTS ...EIGHTEEN YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE HAVE RELEGATED THE SENEGALESE PEOPLE TO THE DUNGEONS, LEAVING THEM DEEPLY ILLITERATE. THE CHOICE IS MADE AS IN EVERY CAPITALIST SOCIETY: 'NO MONEY NO SCHOOLS'." LE SOLEIL: "SINCE LAST YEAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY. SOME MANIFESTATIONS OCCURRED BEFORE BECAUSE SOME STUDENTS REFUSED TO SIGN AN OBLIGATION FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE IN RETURN FOR SCHOLARSHIPS. AFRICANIZATION HAS REACHED A RATE OF 46 PERCENT IN ALL FOUR FACULTIES. 31.5 PERCENT OF ALL FULL PROFESSORS ARE AFRICAN. AS FOR ILLITERACY, UNESCO LAST YEAR ATTRIBUTED TO SENEGAL ITS ANNUAL AWARD FOR COMBATING ILLITERACY. 400,000 STUDENTS IN SENEGAL ARE BENEFITING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 DAKAR 04792 01 OF 02 231050Z

FROM FREE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION. ONE THIRD OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET GOES FOR EDUCATION."

4. FRENCH MILITARY ROLE IN SENEGAL. EL MOUDJAHID: "THE MOST STRIKING ASPECT OF FRENCH PENETRATION IS THE MILITARY PRESENCE; THE SENEGALESE ARMY ITSELF IS LOADED WITH FRENCH OFFICERS WHO ALONE HAVE THE POWER OF DECISION AND WHO EACH SATURDAY EVENING BEHAVE IN THE STREETS OF DAKAR AS IF THEY WERE IN CONQUERED TERRITORY." LE SOLEIL: "MONSIEUR SAIFI SKIPS OVER COMPLETELY THE REVISION OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN FRANCE AND SENEGAL IN MARCH 1974. THESE WERE THE RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS OPENED IN DECEMBER 1973 AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR WHO WANTED A COMPLETE REVISION REFLECTING THE EVOLUTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO STATES. FRANCE AGREED TO THE GRADUAL TRANSFER OF ITS MILITARY BASE TO SENEGAL. FRENCH FORCES SINCE 1974 HAVE BEEN REDUCED FROM 2,250 TO 1,500. AS FOR THE SATURDAY NIGHT STREET SCENE, THE ALGERIAN PORTRAIT IS NOT RECOGNIZABLE TO ANY SENEGALESE ...BESIDES, WHO ARE THE ALGERIANS TO TALK? WITH 90 PERCENT OF ITS MILITARY MATERIAL OF RUSSIAN ORIGIN,

MORE THAN 1,000 SOVIET EXPERTS, AND SOME 200 FRENCH ADVISORS, ALGERIA AND ITS ECONOMY WOULD HAVE BEEN ON ITS KNEES A LONG TIME AGO WITHOUT THE MIRACULOUS SUPPORT OF AMERICAN MULTI-NATIONALS. 'INDEPENDENT' ALGERIA IS IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING THE MOST ALIGNED AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES."

NOTE BY OC/T: ##SENTENCE AS RECEIVED.

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 04792 02 OF 02 231125Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 DAKAR 4792

5. PRESIDENT OF THE SENEGALESE SUPREME COURT. EL MOUDJAHID: "IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENEGALESE SUPREME COURT, THE HIGHEST COURT IN SENEGAL, IS FRENCH." LE SOLEIL: "WHAT CAN WE SAY? THE PRESIDENT OF OUR SUPREME COURT IS SENEGALESE, MONSIEUR KEB A M'BAYE, AND IS WELL KNOWN INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY."

6. COLLAPSE OF THE SENEGALESE BOURSE. EL MOUDJAHID: "AT THE TIME OF THE FRENCH ELECTIONS LAST MARCH, THE FEAR OF SEEING THE LEFT COME TO POWER CAUSED A VERITABLE PANIC IN THE FRENCH COMMUNITY IN SENEGAL AND THE DAKAR STOCK MARKET (BOURSE) COLLAPSED WITHIN SEVERAL HOURS." LE SOLEIL: "THIS STORY WILL MAKE THE SENEGALESE LAUGH. ALAS, DAKAR HAS NO STOCK MARKET."

7. LE SOLEIL ALSO GETS IN A FEW LICKS AGAINST

PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE. "INTERNALLY, IN FEBRUARY 1977,
DATE OF HIS ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC,
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 04792 02 OF 02 231125Z

BOUMEDIENE HAD BECOME THE PRINCIPAL TARGET OF ALL
THE ATTACKS OF HIS PEOPLE AGAINST THE DEFICIENCIES
OF HIS REGIME. THE WAR EFFORT DECREED BY THE COLONEL
PRESIDENT AND NOT DESIRED BY THE ALGERIAN PEOPLE HAD
EXASPERATED THEM. PRICE INCREASES WHICH BRUTALLY
REDUCED THE WORKERS BUYING POWER; PARALYZING STRIKES
IN TRANSPORT AND IN OTHER VITAL ECONOMIC SECTORS;
IN SUM, A POPULAR REVOLT AGAINST BUREAUCRACY AND
CORRUPTION. IN FRANCE MORE THAN 30 PERCENT OF THE
ALGERIAN EMIGRANTS ARE OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME WHO
HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO EXPATRIATE THEMSELVES."

8. COMMENT: WITHOUT WISHING TO GET CAUGHT IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE SENEGALESE-ALGERIAN FEUD, OF WHICH THE
ABOVE REPRESENTS ANOTHER ESCALATION, WE FIND EL
MOUDJAHID'S PORTRAIT OF DAKAR UNDER HARSH FRENCH
OCCUPATION IS PRETTY HARD TO RECOGNIZE.
COHEN

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